

REMARKS

In the final office action, the examiner has withdrawn the objections to the drawings and requested formal drawings. New formal drawings are submitted herewith.

The final office action allows claims 1-17 and 24-30 and rejects claims 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,624,077 ("White") and under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of White.

Applicants respectfully submit that White is not prior art to the present application. The present application was filed on December 11, 2001. This filing date is confirmed on the official filing receipt.

White, on the other hand, issued on September 23, 2003, based upon a single application filed on December 17, 2001. Thus, the effective date of White is December 17, 2001, after the priority date of December 11, 2001, for the present application. White was neither published nor filed before the present application was filed and therefore is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and therefore cannot be used as an anticipating reference under 35 U.S.C. §102 or an obviating reference under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicants also respectfully submit that this response is in full compliance with Rule 116 because it raises no new issues, places this application in a condition for allowance and merely responds to an unsupportable rejection of claims 17-23.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-30 are now in a condition for allowance and an early action so indicating is respectfully requested.

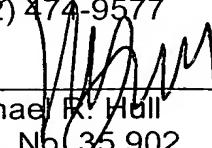
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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